CHRISTMAS CHIMES!

How they add to the Christmas spirit! "Silent Night, Holy Night"—"Adeste Fideles" —pealing out on crisp air that is richly laden with the memories of other Christmas seasons —of that One memorable Christmas-tide centuries ago. Each Christmas sees an ever increasing number of churches enjoying the benefits that come through the installation of Golden Voiced Tower Chimes.

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEED

Not only at Christmas time but at every other season of the year these Modern Tower Chimes confer incalculable benefits through reaching the strays and non-attendants—those whom the Church most of all wants to reach but who shun every ordinary invitation. When Chimes are installed there is invariably a noticeable spiritual awakening in the community—new faces are seen in the congregation; regular communicants display added zeal

Jer. 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hands of the potter; so he made it again another vessel.

INTRO. "B ackbone in a Plastic Age" by Smith made me think Jeremiah's illustration of the Ptter and the Clay, and I reached the conclusion that it contains a worth-while meditation ////// for us all.

Pottery is an art that has not changed much thru the ages. Rebl on screen . About the same as Jeremiah's picture Let us consider the potter, his wheels and his clay.

I. <u>The Potter, according to the prophet represents God.</u>

1.

1. The sovereignty of God is here declared.

"O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as thispotter? "Behold, as the clay in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

From Paul to Romans-"Who art thou thatrepliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter right over the clay?"

The gross atheism of yesterday is about dead.

There is a subtle form of atheism, today, the spirit of independence which seeks to get along without God.

It plans for itself. It acts upon its own impulses and desires. It makes its own program. It goes its own way.

Dr.Faulke's classmate who became rich.

II. <u>God exercises his sovernty according to the principle of Love</u>. Alas, how little we trust God. How pronounced is our rebellion.

My rebellion against father-pitching hay.

The deformed child-parents' bitterness. But thru that child God taught them ////////// to trust Him amd be submissive th Him, and they learned that the Potter's name is Love.

III. <u>God, in his sovereign Love, has a plan.</u>

Watching the potter working at his wheels with the clay we may not know just what plan he has in mind, but he has one. Nor do we always understand what the Divine Potter means, but he has a plan fur us. Paul says, "We are his workmanship". We a re his art, his poem, his expression. Under His direction we are being conformed to the image and pattern of His Son, Jesus Christ.

John L. Stoddards's lecture on Denmark-

2. THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY in Copenhagen. Full of Thorwaldsen's masterpieces of sculpture. The famous Christ figure, so expressive of the divine compassion-"the ineffable pity, love and tenderness in face and gesture, as with extended arms he stands ready to enfold all sorrowing humanity."

What the sculptor, Thorwaldsen, has carved in marble, the great divine Potter is endeavoring to shape out of human clay.

2. "And the vessel which he made of clay was marred in the hands of the potter", and so he had to break it up and make it over again. The vessel marred, but the plan still remains.

The bit of untempered clay that ruined the vessel. How often some undisciplined thing in our lives has prevented the working out of God's plan for us, and instead of becoming vessels unto honor, sanctified and fit the the Master's use we become "vessels wherein is no pleasure". Have we been marred? Has some untempered thing in us prevented God? Let us put ourselves into the hands of the Master Potter to be "made again".

IV. <u>Next let us consider the wheels.</u> The potter controls the wheels. And the wheels of life are what? The perplexing and trying circumstances, the rough and hard experiences, our deeply dug graves, our disappointed hopes, our thwarted plans, our adversities, misfortunes and sorrows- these, these are the wheels on which God is seeking to conform us to His pattern for us.

V. <u>But when we consider the clay, we realize that we are not as clay.</u> We have wills of our own and we can plan for ourselves. We are not clay. And in a certain sense God doesn't want us to merely conform to His will in any blind and passive and submissive way like unto clay.

But God wants us to realize that His plans and designs for us are are for our good and that it is only as we fulfill them that we can realize our own true perfection and happiness. God within us, then we can work out our own salvation. We can trust our lives toGod.

The blind man crossing the crowded street of N.Y. Christ within our protection-

The butterfly and the bird prevented by the window pane.